

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for customizing an Extensible Web Part Menu comprising a plurality of commands, wherein each command comprises a plurality of characteristics rendered in a Web Part, the method comprising:

overriding a method for rendering the Extensible Web Part Menu in the Web Part; and
performing at least one of the following:

modifying at least one property associated with at least one command in the Extensible Web Part menu;

adding a new command to the Extensible Web Part Menu; or

deleting at least one command from the Extensible Web Part Menu; and

rendering the customized Extensible Web Part menu in the Web Part in a Web page on a client platform.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein modifying at least one command comprises:
locating the command within an object model using at least one identifying indicia associated with the command; and

changing a value associated with the at least one property associated with the command.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein adding at least one command from the Extensible Web Part Menu comprises:

inserting a new method associated with the new menu command;

setting at least one property of a plurality of properties associated with the new menu command; and

adding the new method to the Extensible Web Part Menu.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein adding the new method, comprises:
determining whether to add the new menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made to add the menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu, adding the new menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made not to add the menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu, determining whether to insert the new menu command at a known point in the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made to insert the menu command at a known point in the Extensible Web Part Menu, inserting the new menu command in the Extensible Web Part Menu;
and

if the determination is made not to insert the menu command at a known point in the Extensible Web Part Menu, adding multiple menu commands at the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein deleting at least one menu command, comprises:
locating the command within an object model using at least one identifying indicia associated with the command; and
removing the menu item from the command from the Extensible Web Part Menu.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein removing the menu command from the Extensible Web Part Menu, comprises:
determining whether to remove the first instance of the menu command from the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made to remove the first instance of the menu command, removing the menu command;

if the determination is made not to remove the first instance of the menu command, then making a determination whether to remove a menu item from a particular location in the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made to remove the menu command from a particular location, then removing the menu command;

if the determination is made not to remove the menu command from a particular location, then removing all the menu commands from the Extensible Web Part Menu.

7 The method of claim 2, wherein the property is selected from a list consisting essentially of an *Enabled* property, a *Visible* property, a *MenuItems* property, an *IsParent* property, a *Checked* property, a *Caption* property, a *BeginSection* property, a *MenuID* property, and a *ClientEvent* property.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein inserting a new command comprises defining the new command, the comprising:

inserting a MenuItem method associated with the new command, comprising:
a first parameter for defining the name of the new command;
a second parameter for providing a unique identifier for the new command; and
a third parameter for identifying an event to determine whether the command should be activated.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein rendering the customized Extensible Web Part Menu, comprises:

downloading the default Extensible Web Part Menu to the Web portal;
downloading the new command for the Extensible Web Part Menu to the Web portal;
assembling the default Extensible Web Part Menu and the customizations for the Extensible Web Part Menu; and
displaying the assembled Extensible Web Part Menu in the Web Part on the Web portal.

10. The method of claim 6 further comprises:
determining whether a DELETE menu command was removed from the Extensible Web Part Menu; and
adding the DELETE menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu when the Extensible Web Part Menu is rendered in the Web Part.

11. A system for customizing a default Extensible Web Part Menu associated with a Web Part by adding commands specific to the functionality of the Web Part, the system comprising:

a memory unit operable for:

storing an object model associated with the default Extensible Web Part; and

a processing unit operable for:

receiving inputs from an input device performing at least one of the following:

adding a new command into the default Extensible Web Part Menu;

modifying an existing command in the default Extensible Web Part Menu;

and

removing an existing command in the default Extensible Web Part Menu;

transmitting the Extensible Web Part Menu and the new command to a Web portal page; and

assembling the Extensible Web Part Menu and the new command into a customized Extensible Web Part Menu; and

a display device operable for:

displaying a Web Part; and

rendering the customized Extensible Web Part Menu in the Web Part.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein adding a new command further comprises defining the new command prior to adding the new command in the Extensible Web Part Menu.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein defining the new command, comprises: receiving instructions from an input device to make a call to the object model comprising a *MenuItem* method, wherein the *MenuItem* method, comprises:

a first parameter for defining the name of the new command;

a second parameter for providing a unique identifier for the new command; and

a third parameter for identifying an event to determine whether the command should be activated.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the *MenuItem* method has a plurality of associated properties, which define how the new command is displayed in the customized Extensible Web Part Menu.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the properties comprise an *Enable* property, a *Visible* property, a *MenuItems* property, an *IsParent* property, a *Checked* property, a *Caption* property, a *BeginSection* property, a *MenuID* property, and a *ClientEvent* property.

16. The system of claim 11, wherein modifying an existing command comprises:
locating the existing command within the object model using at least one identifying indicia associated with the existing command; and
changing a value associated with at least one property associated with the existing command.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein adding the new command to the Extensible Web Part Menu comprises:
inserting a new method associated with the new menu command into the object model;
setting at least one property of a plurality of properties associated with the new menu command; and
adding the new method to object model.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein adding the new method, further comprises:
determining whether to add the new menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu;
if the determination is made to add the menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu, adding the new menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu using an Add method;
if the determination is made not to add the menu command to the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu, determining whether to insert the new menu command at a known point in the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made to insert the menu command at a known point in the Extensible Web Part Menu, inserting the new menu command in the Extensible Web Part Menu using an Insert method; and

if the determination is made to not to insert the menu command at a known point in the Extensible Web Part Menu, adding multiple menu commands at the end of the Extensible Web Part Menu using an AddRange method.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein deleting at least one menu command, comprises:

locating the command within an object model using at least one identifying indicia associated with the command; and

removing the menu item from the command from the Extensible Web Part Menu.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein removing the menu command from the Extensible Web Part Menu, comprises:

determining whether to remove the first instance of the menu command from the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made to remove the first instance of the menu command, removing the menu command using a Remove method;

if the determination is made not to remove the first instance of the menu command, then making a determination whether to remove a menu item from a particular location in the Extensible Web Part Menu;

if the determination is made to remove the menu command from a particular location, then removing the menu command using a RemoveAt method;

if the determination is made not to remove the menu command from a particular location, then removing all the menu commands from the Extensible Web Part Menu using a Clear method.